

“We are at War”

Genesis 14

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober. Be vigilant because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

Principle: Our struggle in spiritual warfare is real, personal and supernatural.

Ephesians 6:10-18 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”

Principle: If you try to resist evil in your human strength, you will always lose.

Implications of our spiritual struggle:

1. Satan is powerful.

1 John 5:19 “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”

Ephesians 2:2 “...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.”

Acts 26:18 “...to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God.”

2. Satan is evil.
3. Satan is cunning.

Three schemes of the devil: Diversion. Division. Deception.

Four principles of spiritual warfare:

1. Don’t compromise.

Four questions:

- Does it build me up spiritually?
- Does it bring me under its power?
- Do I have an uneasy conscience about it?
- Could it cause someone else to stumble?

2. Don’t give up on your fellows soldiers.

3. Don’t be unprepared.

Six keys to taking a stand against the evil one:

- Remember the devil cannot harm you as long as you have on the armor of God.

Principle: Our protection in spiritual warfare is the armor of God which enables us to take a stand against the enemy in battle.

- Remember that you have been delivered.

Colossians 1:13 "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the son of his love."

- Remember that the devil cannot penetrate the blood of Jesus.

Revelation 12:11 "They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

- Remember the power in the name of Jesus.
- Remember that the devil will not be defeated until you resist him.

James 4:7 "Submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

- Remember that you are strongest when you are weakest.

2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Gladly I will boast in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

4. Don't be fearful.

Principle: Temptation often comes in the afterglow of a great victory.

Principle: Our power and protection in spiritual warfare is God's power.

1 John 4:4 "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."